

REMARKS

SUMMARY:

The subject application sets forth claims 1-20, of which claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are independent claims. Original claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,375,234 (Davidson et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,463,769 (Tate et al.). The above prior art rejection is respectfully traversed based on the following remarks.

CLAIMS 2-5:

Original claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,375,234 (Davidson et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,463,769 (Tate et al.). Based on the present amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse such alleged obviousness, and request reconsideration of present claims 2-5.

Original claim 1 is cancelled herein and original claim 3 has been rewritten from previously dependent form to include all limitations of the independent claim from which it previously depended. Present claim 3 is directed to a system for providing dynamic definition of an application object and includes means for providing an application dictionary that contains information about an application object, means for providing a class dictionary entry that defines meta information about the application object, means for modifying the application dictionary, and means for validating the application dictionary modification.

Numbered page 3 of the March 11, 2004 Office Action asserts that:

“validating an operation to a data structure is conventional. For example, deleting a non-exist object or data item would be an invalid operation. Davidson teaches deletion as a modification operation to the application dictionary (col. 4, lines 21-32; col. 6, lines 29-37). Therefore it would have been obvious to check whether the object/data to be deleted exists, i.e., to validate the application dictionary modification.”

Applicants respectfully assert that the above Office Action characterization of the teachings of Davidson et al. do not effectively compare with the validation of an

application dictionary modification as set forth in present claim 3. Means for validating a modification should not be unnecessarily limited to means for validating a deletion, as set forth in the Office Action. Furthermore, it is inappropriate to characterize "validation" as merely making sure an object/data exists before taking deletion action. If a modification in accordance with the embodiment of claim 3 corresponds to a deletion, validation may include much more than simply ensuring data existence. More particularly, validation in some embodiments may correspond to checking certain parameters or attributes of a given object/data to ensure that the right entry is being deleted or to select only certain portions of the object definition for deletion. Furthermore, modification more often than corresponding to an instance of data deletion corresponds to such action as data addition or alteration of existing data. When object definitions or associated data are added, validation may be provided to make sure correct data is provided and/or that the provided data falls within certain predefined parameters. If data is to be changed, validation may ensure that the correct data is being altered and that the newly provided changes are within predefined parameters.

The aforementioned specific features and validation characterizations are not generally "conventional" as asserted in the recent Office Action and should not be considered so. If the Examiner wishes to proceed with a formal position regarding such statements, Applicants request in accordance with MPEP § 2144.03 that the Examiner provide documentary evidence in support of such statements regarding conventional or "well known" prior art.

Based on the above remarks and the presently submitted Amendments, Applicants submit that all features of claim 3, especially means for validating an application dictionary modification, are not disclosed singularly or in combination of the Davidson et al. and Tate et al. references. Therefore, such references cannot by law serve as a basis for unpatentability of present claim 3, and Applicants respectfully solicit acknowledgement of same. Furthermore, since present claims 2, 4 and 5 depend from otherwise allowable present claim 3 and further limit same, claims 2 and 4-5 should also be allowed.

CLAIMS 6-10:

Original claims 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,375,234 (Davidson et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,463,769 (Tate et al.). Based on the present amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse such alleged obviousness, and request reconsideration of present claims 6-10.

Present claim 6 is directed to a method for providing dynamic definition of an application object in a component framework environment, including in part a step of providing a plurality of application dictionaries that contain information about an application object, wherein one application dictionary is provided for each client component and each server component in the component framework. As set forth in the present application (see pg. 4 line 16 – pg. 5, line 2), component pertinent information in the dictionary(-ies) concern information that allows a component to communicate with other components (i.e., a list of used foreign components, and their names). In this way, a component can bind to required foreign components, for example, to acquire a link to the factory in the external component or to invoke their services. Such communication is facilitated by providing application dictionaries in both client component and server component locations.

The above feature now incorporated into present claim 6 is not disclosed singularly or in combination of the Davidson et al. and Tate et al. references. Therefore, such references cannot by law serve as a basis for unpatentability of present claim 6, and Applicants respectfully solicit acknowledgement of same. Furthermore, since present claims 7-10 depend from otherwise allowable present claim 6 and further limit same, claims 7-10 should also be allowed.

CLAIMS 11-15:

Original claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,375,234 (Davidson et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,463,769 (Tate et al.). Based on the present amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse such alleged obviousness, and request reconsideration of present claims 11-15.

Present claim 11 is directed to a computer readable medium for providing dynamic definition of an application object, including in part logic for providing a range interval definition for each modifiable application object definition that specifies minimum and maximum values for the definition. The present application includes such a range interval feature as a subclass of a range definition class to be used with the information provided in the attribute dictionary entry, which defines information for the specification of attribute information on the Meta level, so that it is possible to provide a generic attribute validation mechanism. As previously mentioned, validation features are advantageous for certain embodiments to check certain parameters or attributes of a given object/data to ensure that the right entry is being modified and that it is being changed to new data that falls within certain predefined parameters.

The above feature now incorporated into present claim 11 is not disclosed singularly or in combination of the Davidson et al. and Tate et al. references. Therefore, such references cannot by law serve as a basis for unpatentability of present claim 11, and Applicants respectfully solicit acknowledgement of same. Furthermore, since present claims 12-15 depend from otherwise allowable present claim 11 and further limit same, claims 12-15 should also be allowed.

CLAIMS 16-20:

Original claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,375,234 (Davidson et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,463,769 (Tate et al.). Based on the present amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse such alleged obviousness, and request reconsideration of present claims 16-20.

Present claim 16 is directed to a system for providing dynamic definition of an application object, including in part a range enumeration definition for each modifiable application object definition that provides a comprehensive list of allowable attribute values for each application object definition. The present application includes such a range enumeration feature as a subclass of a range definition class to be used with the information provided in the attribute dictionary entry, which defines information for the specification of attribute information on the Meta level, so that it is possible to provide a

generic attribute validation mechanism. As previously mentioned, validation features are advantageous for certain embodiments to check certain parameters or attributes of a given object/data to ensure that the right entry is being modified and that it is being changed to new data that falls within certain predefined parameters.

The above feature now incorporated into present claim 16 is not disclosed singularly or in combination of the Davidson et al. and Tate et al. references.

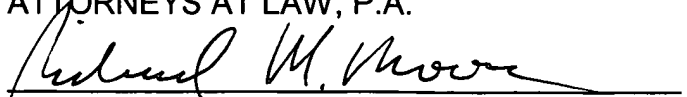
Therefore, such references cannot by law serve as a basis for unpatentability of present claim 16, and Applicants respectfully solicit acknowledgement of same. Furthermore, since present claims 17-20 depend from otherwise allowable present claim 16 and further limit same, claims 17-20 should also be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at last the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 2-20, is in complete condition for issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of this response in order to permit early resolution of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 13, 2004